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Sharon L. Tabor

Sharon L. Tabor

Attorney Docket No. 740630-38

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT application of)
Katsunori HANAKAWA et al.)
Application No. 09/896,118) Group Art Unit: 1742
Filed: July 2, 2001) Examiner: T. M. McGuthry-Banks 02/03
For: FORMED MEMBER MADE OF)
STEEL SHEET AND METHOD)
FOR PRODUCING SAME)

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of September 19, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13, with the following:

This nitriding treatment essentially aims at improving the abrasion resistance of the surface part while restricting increase of the inside hardness of the member and ensuring its toughness, and does not intend to improve the strength of the whole member. However, in recent years, from the view of ensuring concurrently both reduced weight and strength/rigidity of the vehicle body, consideration is made to apply surface heat treatment techniques including such a nitriding treatment on structural members and

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